

**Abstract**

The invention includes a process for extracting a target protein from *E. coli* cells that includes lowering the pH of a whole *E. coli* cell solution to form an acidic solution, disrupting the cells to release the protein into the acidic solution, and separating the cellular debris from the released protein to obtain a protein product enriched in the heterologous target protein. The invention also includes addition of a solubility enhancer.